

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/777,928

Applicant(s)

KANESAKA, YOSHINORI

Examiner

Nelson D. Hernández

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/28/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3 (Renumbered as 1-2 respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☒ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date 20080128.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____



LIN YE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The Examiner acknowledges the amended claims filed on December 28, 2007.

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended. **Claims 2 and 4** have been canceled.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John J. Penny, Jr. (Attorney on Record, Reg. 36,984) on January 28, 2008.

3. The following changes to the drawings have been approved by the examiner and agreed upon by applicant: **New Drawings labeled as "Replacement Sheets" will be filed.** In order to avoid abandonment of the application, applicant must make these above agreed upon drawing changes.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. **Claims 1 and 3 (Renumbered as 1-2 respectively)** are allowed.
5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 1, the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, including all the elements of the present claim, transferring the signal charge from the shift register to the output

section in a state that the shift gate is closed; transferring the unnecessary charge in the photoelectric conversion element group to the shift register and the unnecessary charge from the shift register to the output section in a state that the shift gate is opened; and transferring the signal charge from the shift register to the output section while accumulating the signal charge in the photoelectric conversion element group in a state that the shift gate is closed, wherein the signal charge is transferred from the shift register to the output section in a time period that is set for each sensor section and is different for each sensor section.

Regarding claim 3 (Renumbered as 2), the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest, including all the elements of the present claim, that the controller that transfers the signal charges accumulated in each photoelectric conversion element group to each shift register by opening each shift gate transfers the signal charge from the shift register to the output section in a state that the shift gate is closed; transfers the unnecessary charge in the photoelectric conversion element group to the shift register and the unnecessary charge from the shift register to the output section in a state that the shift gate is opened; and transfers the signal charge from the shift register to the output section while accumulating the signal charge in the photoelectric conversion element group in a state that the shift gate is closed, wherein the signal charge is transferred from the shift register to the output section in a time period that is set for each sensor section and is different for each sensor section.

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nelson D. Hernández whose telephone number is (571) 272-7311. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lin Ye can be reached on (571) 272-7372. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nelson D. Hernández
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

NDHH
January 18, 2008



LIN YE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER